

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I was a B25 pilot in WWII with 67 missions in the Pacific theater. During my tour of duty I was promoted to a 1st Lieutenant, awarded the Purple Heart, given the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters, and never applied for any of them. At the beginning of the Vietnam war I was a supporter until it became obvious that we were not being told the truth, and the killing accomplished little or nothing. Then I too was against the war. And I am now very much against what is going on in Iraq!!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.